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By GEORGE BARR M'CUTCHEON

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Lady Agnes bent over and dropped her face into her hands. She was trembling convulsively. Browne did not show the slightest sign that he heard the galling words.

At a single sharp command the six men picked up the three chests and moved of rapidly down the road, Rasula striding ahead with the flaring

They were barely out of sight when Deppingham moved as though impulse was driving him into immediate attack upon the guards who were left with the unhappy prisoners. Chase laid a restraining hand upon his

"Wait! Plenty of time. Wait an hour. Don't spoil everything. We'll save them sure," he breathed in the

other's ear.

The minutes slipped by with excruciating slowness. The wakeful eyes of the three watchers missed nothing that took place in the little graws grown niche below them. They could have sprung almost into the center of the group from the position they occupied. Two of the men sat with their backs to the rocks, their riffs across their knees. The others sprawled lazing upon the soft grass. Two torches ly upon the soft grass. Two torches tuck in the earth threw a weird light

over the scene.

Bobby Browne was now lying with his shoulder against a faller tree trunk, staring with unswerving gaze at the woman across the way. She was looking off into the night, steadfastly refusing to glance in his direc-

Then suddenly Lady Agnes arose to her feet and lifted her hands high to-ward the black dome of heaven, Salammbo-like, and prayed aloud to her God, the sneering islanders looking on in silent derision.

CHAPTER XXVIIL

THE PERSIAN ANGEL. THE man called Abou suddenly lenped to his feet and, with the cry of an eager animal, sprang to her side. His arms closed about her slender figure with the un-mistakable lust of the victor. A hoarse, inarticulate cry of rage burst from Deppingham's lips. His figure shot out through the air and down the short slope with the rush of an infurlated beast. Even as the astonished Abou



was felled to the earth by a mighty blow from the rifle which his assailant swung swift and true. His skull was rushed as if it were an eggshell.

Lady Agnes struggled to her feet, wild eyed, half crazed by the double assault. The next instant she fell for ward upon her face, dead to all that was to follow in the next few min-

them with their rifles. The wretches calling out to her in the agony of fear, cords that bound Bobby Browne's hands. He was staring blankly, diz-

Ten minutes later Chase was addressing himself to the four islanders who, bound and gagged, were tied by their own sashes to trees some dis-

tance from the roadside. "I've just thought of a little service you fellows can perform for me in return for what I've done for you. All the time you're doing it, however, there will be pistols quite close to your backs. Lady Deppingham is much too weak to take the five mlle walk we've on are to have the honor of carrying or four miles and a half, and you will mve to get along the best you can the the gage in your mouths. Two



I'll show you how." With Selim in the lead the little procession moved swiftly, but cautiously, through the black jungle, bent or reaching the gate if possible before the night lifted. Chase and Bobby Browne brought up the rear with the two reserve carriers in hand. Browne,

In his heart Browne was now raging against the fate that had placed him in this humiliating, almost contempti-ble, position. He, and he alone, was responsible for the sufferings that Lady Agnes had endured. It was as

ham.

His wife! He could never be the same to her. He had forfeited the trust and confidence of the one loyal believer among them all. And now Lady Deppingham loathed him because his weakness had been greater than hers!

"Keep out of this, Brownel You've been enough of a bounder without try-ing that sort of thing."

as mile after mile he bibindered along, his heart bleeding itself dry through the wound those words had made.

It was still pitch dark when they came to the ridge above the park. Through the trees the lights in the chateau could be seen. Lady Agnes opened her eyes, and cried out in tremulous joy.

Chase said to the panting islanders, "and I'm going to reward you. I'm going to set you free, but not yet. Don't rejoice. First we shall tie you securely to four stout trees just off the road. Just as soon as we are inside the walls I'll find some way to let your friends know that you are here."

He and Selim promptly marched the bewildered islanders into the woods.

Bobby Browne, utterly exhausted, had thrown himself to the soft earth. Lady Deppingham was standing, swaying, friendly windows. After a long, tense moment of indecision she held out her hands, and Deppingham sprang forward in time to catch her as she swayed toward him. She was sobbing in his arms. Bobby Browne's heavy breathing ceased in that instant, and he closed his ears against the sound that came to them.

Deppingham gently implored her to sit down with him and rest. At last she said:

"I've made you unhappy. I've been so foolish. It has not been fun, either my husband. God knows it hasn't You do not love me now."

He did not answer her at once, and she shivered fearfully in his arms.

love if you can answer for yours. Are you the same Agnes that you weremy Agnes?"

"Will you believe me?" "Yes."

"I am the same Agnes. I am your Agnes. I am! You do believe me? He crushed her close to his breast and then patted her shoulder as a father might have touched an erring

way you have, dear." The object of this gentle commisera tion was staring with gloomy eyes at the lights below. He was saying to himself, over and over again, "If I can only make Drusie understand!" Chase and Selim came down upon

this little low toned picture. The former paused an instant and smiled joy

whispered. "They watch so closely that no one may go to rescue those who have disappeared. Friends are hidden inside the wall, ready to open the gate at a signal. They have waited with Neenah all night. And day is near, sabib."

Chase. "Quiet now!" tinguished huddled close to the wall below the gate. The sense of sight had become keen during those trying hours in the darkness.

The islanders were conversing in low tones, a word or two now and then reaching the ears of the others. light flashed upon the muttering group. As they fell back a voice, low and cried gayly. He was puzzled by her firm, called out to them: mood-but then, why not? What could

"Not a sound or you die!" Four unwavering rifles were bearng upon the surprised islanders, and four very material men were advancing from the ghostly darkness. An electric lantern shot a ray of light athwart the scene.

"Drop your guns—quick!" command-ed Chase. "Don't make a row!" Paralyzed with fear and amazement,



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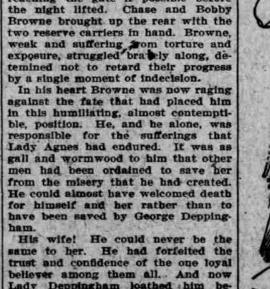
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dropped his struggling burden to mee

There was no struggle. Chase and Selim were upon the stupefied islanders before they could move, covering fell upon their knees and howled for mercy. While Deppingham was holding his wife's limp form in his arms, utterly oblivious to all else that was happening about him, his two friends were swiftly disarming the groveling natives. Selim's knife severed the

zily before him.



When he would have slain the four helpless islanders with his own hands Hollingsworth Chase had Stayed his rage with the single, caustic adjura-

Tears were in Bobby Browne's eyes as mile after mile he blundered along

Then he kissed her brow gently.
"I do love you, Agnes," he said intensely. "I will answer for my own

At last she spoke: . "It is not wholly his fault, George. I was to blame I led him on. You understand?" "Poor devil!" said he dryly. "It's s

ously in the darkness. "Five men are near the gate," he

"We must attack at once," said Five shadowy figures soon were dis-

Suddenly a blinding, mysterious How then?"

of jos form a harket with your hands. While the three white man kept them

covered with their rifles Selim ran to the gate, uttering the shrill cry of a aight bird. There was a rush of feet inside the walls, subdued exclama-tions, then a glad cry. "Quick!" called Selim. The keys rattled in the locks, the bolts were thrown down, and an instant later Lady Deppingham was flying across the space which intervened between her and the gate.

The men were beside her a moment

The men were beside her a moment later, possessed of the weapons of the helpless sentinels. With a crash the gates were closed, and a joyous laugh rang out from the exultant throat of Hollingsworth Chase.

"By the Lord Harry, this is worth while!" he shouted. Outside the maddened guards were sounding the tardy siarm. The first gray shade of day was coming into the night.

He saw Neenah ahead of him, standing still in the center of the graveled path. Beyond her was the tall figure

of a man. "You are a trump, Neenah," cried Chase, hurrying up to her, "a Persian It was not Neenah's laugh that re-

plied. Chase gasped in amazement and then uttered a cry of joy. The Princess Genevra, slim and rect, was standing before him, her hand touching her turban in true military salute, soft laughter rippling from HYGIENIC ICE

In the exuberance of joy he clasped that little hand and crushed it against his lips.

"You!" he exclaimed. "Sh!" she warned. "I have retained my guard of honor." He looked beyond her and beheld the

berg guardsman.
"The devil!" fell involuntarily from his lips. "Not at all! He is here to keep me from going to the devil!" she cried so merrily that he laughed aloud with her in the spirit of unbounded joy. "Come! Let us run after the others.

tall, soldierly figure of a Rapp-Thor-

I want to run and dance and sing."

He still held her hand as they ran swiftly down the drive, followed close-ly by the faithful sergeant. "You are an angel," he said in her She laughed as she looked up

into his face. "Yes-a Persian angel," she cried. It's so much easier to run well in a Persian angel's costume," she added.

CHAPTER XXIX. A PRESCRIBED MALADY. OU are wonderful, staying out there all night watching forus." He was about to say

"How could any one sleep? Neenah found this dress for me. Aren't these baggy trousers funny? She rifled the late Mr. Wyckholme's wardrobe. This costume once adorned a sultana, I'm told. I wore it tonight because I was much less conspicuous as a sultana than I might have been had I gone to the wall as a princess.

"I think I like myself as the princess, too," she said naively. He sighed deeply. They were quite close to the CLEAN excited group on the terrace when she said: "I am very, very happy now, after the most miserable night I have

ever known. I was so troubled and

afraid"-

"I like you best as the princess," he

said, frankly surveying her in the gray

little while? Don't forget that I am "Ah, but then I will have Parls," she

of royal princesses? No more than he could know of their loves. Lady Deppingham was got to bed at once. The princess, more thrilled by nent than she ever had been in er life, attended her friend. In the ity of her chamber the exhausted

he be expected to know of the moods

wied, sympathetic young woman (To be Continued)